

HEATHER E. WILLIAMS, CA Bar #122664  
Federal Defender  
LISA N. LUMEYA, DC Bar #90017392  
Assistant Federal Defenders  
2300 Tulare Street, Suite 330  
Fresno, CA 93721-2226  
Telephone: (559) 487-5561  
Fax: (559) 487-5950

Attorneys for Defendant  
CHRISTOPHER DURELL

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CHRISTOPHER I. DURELL,

Defendant.

Case No. 6:24-po-00490-HBK

MOTION TO WITHDRAW THE FEDERAL  
DEFENDER AS COUNSEL AND APPOINT  
NEW COUNSEL; [PROPOSED] ORDER

Lisa N. Lumeya, Assistant Federal Defender, and counsel of record in the above-captioned case, hereby moves for an order allowing her to withdraw as counsel of record and for reappointment of new counsel to represent defendant Christopher Durell.

On November 6, 2024, Mr. Christopher Durell appeared before this Court for an initial appearance. He entered a plea of not guilty to a violation notice alleging a violation of 36 C.F.R. § 2.17(a)(3), prohibiting “[d]elivering or retrieving a person or object by . . . airborne means,” and undersigned counsel was appointed to represent Mr. Durell. The matter was then stayed pending this Court’s ruling on a potentially dispositive legal challenge in *United States v. Nunn*, No. 6:20-PO-00742-HBK. On May 14, 2025, this Court lifted the stay following its ruling in *Nunn*, and set a first status conference on June 17, 2025. At the status conference, this Court scheduled a second status conference on August 12, 2025, as well as a bench trial on October 8, 2025.

1 Based on the probable cause statements in the above captioned case and *United States v.*  
2 *Iosue*, No. 6:24-po-00496-HBK, there did not appear to be a conflict with representing both Mr.  
3 Durell and Mr. Iosue. Having now had the opportunity to review the discovery, there is a conflict  
4 that prohibits undersigned counsel from representing either Mr. Durell and Mr. Iosue given the  
5 extent of communication she has now had with both of them. Accordingly, undersigned counsel  
6 respectfully requests that this Court grant her motion to withdraw as counsel and refer the matter  
7 back to the Office of the Federal Defender for the appointment of new, and separate, counsel for  
8 Mr. Durell and Mr. Iosue.

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11 Respectfully submitted,

12 HEATHER E. WILLIAMS  
Federal Defender

13 DATED: July 3, 2025

14 /s/ Lisa Ndembu Lumeya  
LISA N. LUMEYA  
Assistant Federal Defender  
Attorneys for Defendant  
CHRISTOPHER I. DURELL  
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**[PROPOSED] O R D E R**

IT IS SO ORDERED that counsel of record may withdraw from its representation of CHRISTOPHER DURELL, and that this matter be referred back to the Office of the Federal Defender for the appointment of new, and separate, counsel.

DATED: July, 2025

HON. HELENA BARCH-KUCHTA  
United States Magistrate Judge